



Lake County Sheriff's Office

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Sheriff Daniel A. Dunlap

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PRESS RELEASE:

Animal Cruelty / Domestic Violence Case

02-04-2014

Capt. Carl Dondorfer reported that on 02-04-2014 at 0352 hrs., the Lake County Sheriff's Office was dispatched to the Harnish residence located at 2544 Dorchester Rd. in Perry Twp. in reference to a 911 call from 60 year old Patricia Harnish who indicated that her husband, 68 year old Roger Harnish had just shot her dog. Upon arrival of deputies at the scene, deputies heard an additional gunshot coming from the residence.

The investigation revealed that upon Mrs. Harnish arriving home from work an argument occurred with Mr. Harnish over financial matters. According to Mrs. Harnish her 3 year old Rhodesian Ridgeback male dog named Terry is very protective of her. According to Mrs. Harnish during the argument, Mr. Harnish came at her in an aggressive manner with his hand displayed in a manner which led her to believe that Mr. Harnish was going to choke her and attack her. Terry, the dog became agitated at the confrontation and began to growl at Mr. Harnish as he went towards his wife. Mrs. Harnish indicated that Mr. Harnish stated that he was going to kill the dog for the way it was acting. Mrs. Harnish pleaded for her husband not to harm her dog and she proceeded to place Terry in a wire dog kennel cage in an attempt to calm the dog.

According to Mrs. Harnish the argument continued and she felt threatened by her husband during which Terry continued to growl at Mr. Harnish from the closed cage. Mrs. Harnish stated that her husband then went to their bedroom and retrieved a 9mm handgun after which Mr. Harnish shot the dog twice while it was secured in the kennel. Mrs. Harnish stated that she immediately fled the home believing that her life was in danger and she would be shot next. Mrs. Harnish indicated that while fleeing to a neighbor's home she heard two more shots from the residence and suspected that her husband shot her dog, Terry two more times.

Upon speaking with Mr. Harnish he readily admitted to shooting the dog four times while it was kenneled in the cage to ensure that it was dead. The handgun was recovered at the scene. Deputies located the dog off the rear deck of the residence in the yard where Mr. Harnish had dragged the animal after he shot it. Deputies found that the dog had severe head trauma however found the dog still alive. Deputies attempted to reach local animal rescue agencies however were unable to make contact with anyone. The animal was observed to be suffering badly and had to be humanely dispatched by a deputy.

Mr. Harnish was subsequently arrested and charged with Domestic Violence against his wife and Animal Cruelty charges under the Ohio Revised Code.

Capt. Carl Dondorfer #53